

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend the application as follows:

Please cancel claims 15-24 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein, and add new claims 25-29.

Claims 1-24 (canceled).

25. (new) A pistol having a locking mechanism configured to lock a trigger mechanism of the pistol if an attempt is made by an unauthorized person to fire the pistol, the locking mechanism comprising:

an identification unit configured to detect an identification signal inputted into the identification unit;

a control unit connected to the identification unit, the control unit configured to compare the signal inputted into the identification unit with a stored identification code;

an actuator device including a geared motor connected to the control unit and connected by a threaded spindle and nut connection with a mechanical locking element which is movable between a locked position and an unlocked position, wherein in the locked position the locking element locks a trigger tongue of the pistol;

a battery for supplying electrical power to the locking mechanism; and

a plurality of display elements configured to display an operating status of the locking mechanism.

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26. (new) A pistol as claimed in claim 25, wherein the locking element is configured to engage a notch in the trigger tongue, and wherein the locking element is guided for movement in a bolt and is spring-loaded.

27. (new) The pistol as claimed in claim 25, wherein at least the greater portion of the locking mechanism is located in front of a trigger guard and below the barrel of the pistol.

28. (new) The pistol as claimed in claim 25, wherein the identification unit comprises a keypad for the input of the code.

29. (new) The pistol as claimed in claim 25, wherein the identification unit comprises a finger-print scanner.

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